

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [0032] and [0034] with the following replacement paragraphs:

[0032] Referring now to Fig. 6, a flow diagram of a method of securely supporting password change in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown. Here, a password change operation is detected and a secure password change process prompts the user for a new password to allow the change password operation to proceed. The new password is provided to the process to allow changing of the password *[[is]]* stored in an independent database. The data indicative of the new password is automatically associated with the authorization data in replacement of the data indicative of the old password. From the independent database, the new password is provided to a password database on the system to change the password there. The prompt for a new password by the secure password change process instead of by the process associated with the system or application notifies the user that the password change operation has been detected and that the new password is accurately stored.

[0034] Referring now to Fig. 7, a flow diagram of a method of securely supporting password change in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention is shown. Here, a password change operation is detected and a secure user authorization process prompts the user for an authorization data. Once authorized, the system allows the change password operation to proceed. The new password is provided to allow changing of the password *[[is]]* stored in an independent database. The data indicative of the new password is automatically associated with the user identity in replacement of the data indicative of the old password. From the independent database, the new password is provided to a password database on the system to change the password there. The prompt for user authorization data by the secure authorization process instead of by the process associated with the system or application notifies the user that the

password change operation has been detected and that the new password is accurately stored.